



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

MAY 3 1996

RECEIVED

MAY 9 1996

The Honorable Phil Gramm
United States Senator
2323 Bryan Street, #1500
Dallas, Texas 75201

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Dear Senator Gramm:

Thank you for your correspondence of April 3, 1996, on behalf of your constituents, Ethel M. and Don McLeod, regarding the Commission's decision to freeze acceptance of paging applications. Mr. and Mrs. McLeod express concern that the suspension of processing of paging applications will adversely affect small businesses that provide paging services.

The Commission is currently conducting a rulemaking proceeding that proposes to transition from licensing paging frequencies on a transmitter-by-transmitter basis to a geographic licensing approach, using auctions to award licenses where there are mutually exclusive applications. In conjunction with that proceeding, the Commission initially froze processing of applications for paging frequencies. On April 23, 1996, the Commission released a First Report and Order in WT Docket 96-18 and PP Docket 93-253, which adopted interim measures governing the licensing of paging systems and partially lifted the interim freeze for incumbent paging licensees. For your convenience and information, enclosed is a copy of the Press Release concerning the First Report and Order, which includes a summary of the principal decisions made. Specifically, small and medium sized incumbent paging companies will be permitted to expand their service areas if the proposed new site is within 65 kilometers (40 miles) of an authorized and operating site. These interim rules will remain in effect until the Commission adopts final rules in the paging proceeding.

Thank you for your inquiry.

Sincerely,

David L. Furth
Chief, Commercial Wireless Division
Wireless Telecommunications Bureau

Enclosure

1

Phil Gramm
Texas

United States Senator

MEMORANDUM

Date: 4-3

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Congressional Affairs
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

My constituent has sent me the enclosed communication, and I would appreciate a response which addresses his/her concerns.

Please send your response, together with the constituent's correspondence, to the following address:

Office of Senator Phil Gramm
2323 Bryan Street, #1500
Dallas, Texas 75201

Attention: Brett Brewer

PRB
PR-PA9/14
1835

Paging Services
Cellular Activations
24 Hour Communication Center
Voice Mail
Fax Broadcasting
Operator Services
National 800 Call Processing



STENOCALL

a division of Lubbock Radio Paging Service, Inc.
Established 1954

1515 Avenue J
P.O. Box 10127
Lubbock, Texas 79408
(806) 762-0811
(800) 658-2612
Fax: (806) 763-9466

March 22, 1996

APR 01 1996

The Honorable Phil Gramm
United States Senator from Texas
Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20510

Re: Notice of Proposed Rulemaking
WT Docket No. 96-18; PP Docket No. 93-253

Dear Senator Gramm:

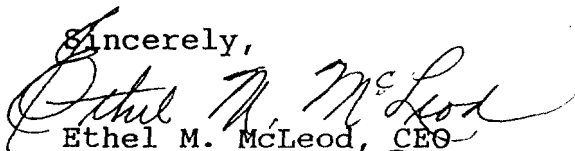
We are members of a coalition of paging carriers who provide paging service in the U. S., and one of our goals is to help the FCC understand the devastating effect their recent freeze on paging applications will have on the paging industry. The paging industry is a highly competitive one and for us who have built our businesses from scratch and have dutifully expanded our services to provide the very best service for our customers, this is a true economic hardship.

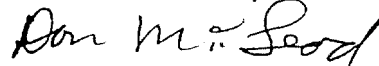
For your information I am attaching a letter from Senator Larry Pressler, Chairman of the Commerce Committee, which is directed to the Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman of the FCC.

We would like to earnestly solicit your support of this effort to lift the freeze on paging applications. Anything you can do for us will be sincerely appreciated.

We look forward to seeing you when you are again in Lubbock.

Sincerely,


Ethel M. McLeod, CEO


Don McLeod, President

TED STEVENS, ALASKA
JOHN B. BARRON, ARIZONA
CONRAD BURNS, MONTANA
SLADE GORTON, WASHINGTON
TRENT LOTT, MISSISSIPPI
RAY BAILEY HUTCHINS ON, TEXAS
OLYMPIA J. SNOWE, MAINE
JOHN ASHCROFT, MISSOURI
BILL FRIST, TENNESSEE

FRANK F. HOLLYN, SOUTH CAROLINA
DANIEL K. HOLLYN, HAWAII
WENDELL H. FORD, KENTUCKY
J. JAMES HICKS, MINNESOTA
JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER IV, WEST VIRGINIA
JOHN F. KERRY, MASSACHUSETTS
JOHN B. BREAUX, LOUISIANA
RICHARD H. BRYAN, NEVADA
BYRON L. DORGAN, NORTH DAKOTA

PATRIC G. LINE, CHIEF OF STAFF
MYR C. CURTIN, DEMOCRATIC CHIEF COUNSEL AND STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE,
AND TRANSPORTATION

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6125

March 15, 1996

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Notice of Proposed Rulemaking
WT Docket No. 96-18; PP Docket No. 93-253

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am writing to express my concern about recent actions taken by the Federal Communications Commission that have an adverse impact on the paging industry. On February 8, 1996, the Commission imposed a freeze on acceptance and processing of virtually all paging applications, including applications for new or modified facilities by incumbent paging operators, in the above-referenced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. This freeze broadly applies to all paging operators with the sole exception of those licensed to use nationwide channels. I understand that none of the comments filed with the Commission have supported the freeze.

I have learned that this action was taken by the Commission without first seeking the views of those businesses directly affected, and may be having an adverse economic impact on the robust U.S. paging industry, including drops in sales and stock prices of publicly traded companies. Apart from the revenues and employment generated by this industry, the freeze affects the more than 34 million subscribers, both business and personal users, who also rely on paging to provide a range of wireless messaging services including critical emergency and life support services. The freeze also is impacting the major manufacturers of paging equipment — all of which are American companies.

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt

March 15, 1996

Page 2

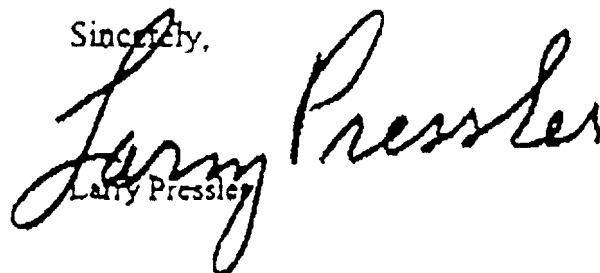
Regardless of the Commission's intentions to act quickly on the underlying rulemaking, even a relatively short delay could have an adverse impact on this highly competitive industry in terms of lost opportunities in the marketplace. I am particularly concerned about the impact on local and regional carriers, many of which are small businesses, who compete on a daily basis with nationwide competitors who are exempted from the freeze.

In the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, the Commission acknowledges that paging is a highly competitive industry and that licensees must expand or modify facilities on a regular basis in order to meet customer demand and increase their competitiveness. Yet a number of examples have been brought to my attention of the ways in which the freeze precludes the ability of companies to meet the needs of their customers through the expansion and improvement of existing systems. The freeze may also inhibit introduction of advanced wireless messaging services which are in the process of being introduced by the industry. These include Internet e-mail and enhanced text services such as stock quotes, news and sports updates via alphanumeric pagers.

I thus urge the Commission to withdraw the freeze on incumbent licensees without further delay.

Thank you for your consideration of the views expressed in this letter. We look forward to working with you on this matter.

Sincerely,


Larry Pressler

cc: Commercial Wireless Division
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